

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 MCE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00
DHA-05 L-03 IGA-02 /067 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:JNBUMPUS:JC
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
-----096469 040542Z /12
R 030221Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AR

SUBJECT: TODMAN - AJA ESPIL CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 30, 1977
1. AFTER INITIAL EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, AMBASSADOR
AJA ESPIL RAISED THE NEED FOR SECRETARY VANCE TO VISIT

ARGENTINA ON HIS TRIP TO BRAZIL IN OCTOBER. HE ARGUED THAT
IT WOULD STRENGTHEN MODERATE PRESIDENT VIDELA'S HAND
AGAINST THE MILITARY HARD LINERS, UNDERSCORE THAT THE U.S.
WAS NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH BRAZIL BUT ALSO WITH ARGENTINA,
AND BALANCE PRESIDENT VIDELA'S TRIP TO THE U.S. ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN ASSURED AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL THAT HE
WOULD INFORM THE SECRETARY OF THE ARGENTINE DESIRE AND
ADD HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION FAVORING SUCH A VISIT.

2. AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE EIGHT
BELL 212 MODEL COMMERCIAL HELICOPTERS THAT HAD BEEN
ORDERED SOME TIME AGO BUT NOT APPROVED FOR SALE. AJA
ESPIL NOTED THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS SOON ARRIVING IN
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WASHINGTON AND THAT AN ANSWER WAS NEEDED. TODMAN TOLD
AJA ESPIL THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE; THE HELICOPTERS
WOULD BE SOLD, BUT THE MACHINE GUN MOUNTS WOULD NOT BE
PERMITTED ON ANY OF THE PLANES, AND ARMOR PLATING WOULD

BE ALLOWED ON ONLY THOSE TWO AIRCRAFT USED TO TRANSPORT

PRESIDENT VIDELA. TODMAN ALSO INFORMED AJA ESPIL THAT ASSURANCES WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES. AN AIDE-MEMOIRE WAS GIVEN TO THE AMBASSADOR. TODMAN REQUESTED THAT THE ASSURANCES BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE SALE COULD GO FORWARD. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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